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of *Basidiomycetes* and *Ascomycetes*. (Noticing Brefeld's paper, and claiming that Brefeld has substantially *confirmed* the results of Van Tieghem's early researches.) Max Reess, A Correction (of an alleged error in Brefeld's memoir). Reinke, Investigations Respecting Growth. No. 12. Dodel-Port, Concerning the Swarm-spores of *Ulothrix zonata*. Reports of Societies: Amsterdam, Jonkman, On the Prothallium of *Marattiaceæ*. No. 13. Th. Irmisch, A Contribution to the Natural History of *Cactaceæ*. (Considering the seedlings of *Rhipsalis*.) No. 14. In Reports of Societies: Gottingen. Holle, On the Organs of Vegetation in *Marattiaceæ*. Holle, On a New Camera (using a double mirror).

ZOÖLOGY.

THE EUROPEAN WOODCOCK SHOT IN VIRGINIA. — A few days ago I received from Dr. M. G. Ellzey, of Blacksburg, Va., the information that "a European woodcock was shot in Loudon County, in November, 1873," by his brother, with a number of the common species these gentlemen secured together. The alleged occurrence being one of much interest, I wrote, asking for further particulars, in order to secure the "internal" evidence necessary to place the matter beyond question. Dr. Ellzey appears to be perfectly competent in the case, from the particularity of the reply with which he has favored me. "The flight of the bird was slower, heavier, and nearer the ground than that of the familiar bird. When compared with twelve or fifteen of the latter, it appeared at least twice as large as the largest of them; the wing was longer, more pointed, and possessed but one falcate primary. The bird was found to weigh fourteen and one half ounces; it seems to me that this weight alone is sufficient to determine the species, the heaviest American woodcock ever weighed by me being only seven and one half ounces, while the average is about five and one half. Moreover, the character of the wing settles the matter beyond dispute. I was at the time aware of the peculiarities of the European bird as compared with ours in this respect, and made the comparison with such care as to preclude possibility of mistake. I had not at the time, nor have I since had, the smallest doubt of the correctness of my diagnosis. The bird was not preserved, as I wished, to be sent to a taxidermist for mounting, but was cooked and eaten with the rest."

We have several authentic records of the casual presence of *Scolopax rusticola* in America, besides some less explicit references to the same fact in the works of leading sporting writers; but so far as I now remember, there has hitherto been no recorded instance of the occurrence of the species south of New Jersey. — ELLIOTT COUES.

NOTABLE CHANGE OF HABIT OF THE BANK SWALLOW. — In treating of this bird (*Cotyle riparia*, Birds of the Northwest, p. 87), I state, "It becomes an interesting question whether the bank swallow will ever abandon its burrows, and so far modify its fossorial nature as to

build in chinks and crannies, or affix a nest anywhere about a building." The matter is already decided, and the surmise verified, as I learn from a correspondent, Dr. Rufus Haymond, well known by his contributions to the ornithology of Indiana. He writes as follows: "The depot of the White Water Valley Railway, in Brookville, Indiana, is built upon stone piers, and spans the hydraulic canal, some five or six feet above the water. While at the depot during the past summer I saw a bank swallow fly under the building with several blades of grass in her bill; and being curious to see what she would do with them, I watched her, and saw her carry them through a two-inch auger hole which had been bored through a pine board. The spot was inaccessible, owing to the water; but I know from the droppings about the hole that this was her nest." I have never seen or heard of any previous record of such habit, and consider Dr. Haymond's statements very interesting. — ELLIOTT COUES.

THE CHAPPARAL COCK. — Can any of your ornithological readers give us any information as to the food of the chapparral cock, or road runner, as it is usually called in this region (*Geococcyx Californianus*). It is found, though it is not abundant, along the foot-hills in this vicinity. A friend gave me a specimen killed here a few days ago, but I believe it is not found north of the "Divide." On mounting the bird I found in its gizzard no recognizable matter except *débris* of grasshoppers, and as no one has seen a grasshopper alive here for two months, the question is, Where did the bird get them? Does it provide its food in the season, laying it up for winter? One of the grasshoppers was in perfect condition, except that it had lost some of its legs. Under a lens the mass of the comminuted material was seen to consist of minute pieces of legs and integument of grasshoppers. — V. T. CHAMBERS, Colorado Springs, Cal.

THE "SISCO OF LAKE TIPPECANOE." — I am informed by Mr. J. A. Henshall of Oconomowoc, Wis., that the fish described by me under the above name (*Argyrosomus sisco*, AMERICAN NATURALIST, March, 1875, p. 135) occurs in abundance in Nemahbin Lake, Waukesha County, Wis., which empties into Rock River, through Bark River, and in Okauchee, Oconomowoc, and La Belle lakes, in the same county, which send their waters also to Rock River by way of the Oconomowoc.

A notice of this species occurs in Rafinesque's Ichthyologia Ohiensis, p. 44, as follows: —

"The white fish of Lake Erie, *Coregonus albus* of Le Sueur (or *Salmo clupeiformis* of Dr. Mitchell), a fish which differs from the trouts by being toothless, is said to be found in some streams of Indiana at the head of the Wabash and Miami; but I have no certain proof of this." — D. S. JORDAN.

CORALS AND CORAL ISLANDS; BY JAMES D. DANA. — We are not going to review the book, as it is one which we suppose a large part of our readers are familiar with already. We only propose that they shall

share with us the amusement we had in reading a review of it in the *British Quarterly* for October last. Here is a sentence: "Professor Dana, who is another Hugh Miller, made his mark as a writer many years ago by his *Two Years before the Mast*. The man who could write that was clearly marked out for something better than the life of an able-bodied seaman; but few who have risen in life as he has have been able to turn to such use the lessons of sea-faring life learned in earlier years."

"The man who could write that" precious sentence in a quarterly review, confuse two men of such mark, and educe either of them from an illiterate sailor, has earned thereby a word of notice.

NOTE ON THE BLUE GOOSE. — A few years ago I came upon a flock of four *Anser caerulescens*, about two miles west of this place, in April. They were feeding upon a grass-plot upon the bank of the west fork of White Water River. As I approached them, and before I discovered them, they rose up from the ground very much in the manner of the mallard. I shot one some days later, breaking its wing, and brought it home with the hope of saving it, but it died in a few hours. One of the three left was afterwards shot by one of my neighbors, Mr. Halstead, with a rifle. The wing was shot off at the wrist joint. He secured the goose, took it home, fed it, and it became as tame as a domestic goose. He lived near the bank of the river, but, notwithstanding he had tame geese with which it associated, it would never approach the water, but would stand upon an elevation and watch those in the river. He kept it a year, from April to April, but a hurricane which occurred in the last April blew a fence down upon it and killed it. I saw it in the fall after he caught it. It ate corn very greedily, but, unlike the common goose, did not swallow the corn whole, but picked up every grain, placed it between the outer edges of the bill and bit it in two, the bill snapping like a steel-trap. This, to me, was a curious fact, but the fact that for a whole year it never entered the water was still more astonishing. — RUFUS HAYMOND, Brookeville, Indiana.

OCCURRENCE OF MAGGOTS IN A BOY. — Dr. G. W. Martin, a homœopathic physician, and a very intelligent, well-informed gentleman, was recently (June 5th) called to see a patient, a lad of about fourteen years, who had been seized with violent spasms. The doctor gave as an assistant remedy a purgative, whereupon the lad passed at one stool about fifty little insects or bugs, as he called them. The doctor brought them to me and I told him that they were dipterous larvæ. I requested him to put some in a box of moist earth covered with glass, and the flies appeared on the 17th of June. Now can you tell what the fly is? — GILBERT S. JUDD, Maysville, Ky., June 22, 1875.

[On submitting the flies to Baron Osten Sacken, he wrote us as follows: "The fly you gave me is *Anthomyia* (*Homalomyia*) *scalaris*, one of those mentioned in the *American Entomologist*, ii. 139, and of

which similar experience is recorded in Europe." The article referred to is entitled *Larvæ in the Human Bowels*. It is by the late Mr. Walsh, and gives a good summary of what is known of the subject in this country. See also *Guide to the Study of Insects*, pp. 366, 367. — ED. NATURALIST.]

SWEDISH PODURANS. — The *Poduridæ*, or "spring-tails" of Sweden, have been monographed in an elaborate way by T. Tullberg. The memoir is accompanied by twelve plates, and enters quite fully into the anatomy of these little creatures of so much interest to microscopists. The work appears in the *Transactions of the Royal Swedish Academy* for 1871, and has just reached this country.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

AN INTERESTING "FIND" OF INDIAN RELICS. — A very interesting "find" of Indian relics has been obtained by the writer, from a locality not previously examined, although within a short distance of the site of his collecting labors of the past three years. By the uprooting of a large tree during the tornado of Tuesday night, February 1st, and a consequent landslide on the south bank of Crosswick's Creek, near Yardville, Mercer County, New Jersey, the traces of the site of a former "homestead" were brought to light, consisting of corn-mills, pestles, axes, hammers, spears, and arrow-points, associated with innumerable fragments of bones, mussel-shells, and charcoal. No fragments of the bones were sufficiently large to determine the animals to which they belonged, beyond the fact that while some undoubtedly were fragments of mammal bones, the vast majority were those of birds and large fishes. The main feature of interest connected with the stone implements is the uniform character of the workmanship displayed in their manufacture. There was not found one polished celt, or a single specimen of jasper arrowhead. The find consists of the following specimens: Sixteen arrow-points varying from four inches to one and one half in length; they are all of the same mineral, a slaty rock, and now very much weather-worn, soft, and pliable. One spear-head, six inches in length, made of the same mineral and equally weather-worn. Five specimens varying between the spear and knife forms, one of white quartz, and all of the same character of workmanship. One specimen of an elongate, lozenge-shaped implement, seven inches in length by two in greatest width, and pointed at each end; the edges have been chipped; very much weather-worn. These twenty-three specimens, found as they were together, bear us out in our remarks in the February number of the NATURALIST, that specimens found deep in the soil, as a class, are less elaborately wrought than those found nearer the surface. They were lying, when exposed to view, about two feet below the surface, and the character of the soil is such that its accumulation is wholly due, I believe, to the gradual decomposition of vegetable matter, commingled with fine sand, such as gentle winds will